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To The March Urban District Council
July 17 1898

Annual Report

Gentlemen

Herewith I beg to furnish you with my Annual Report of the Births Deaths and Sickness for the past year ending 31st Day of December 1897.

Births

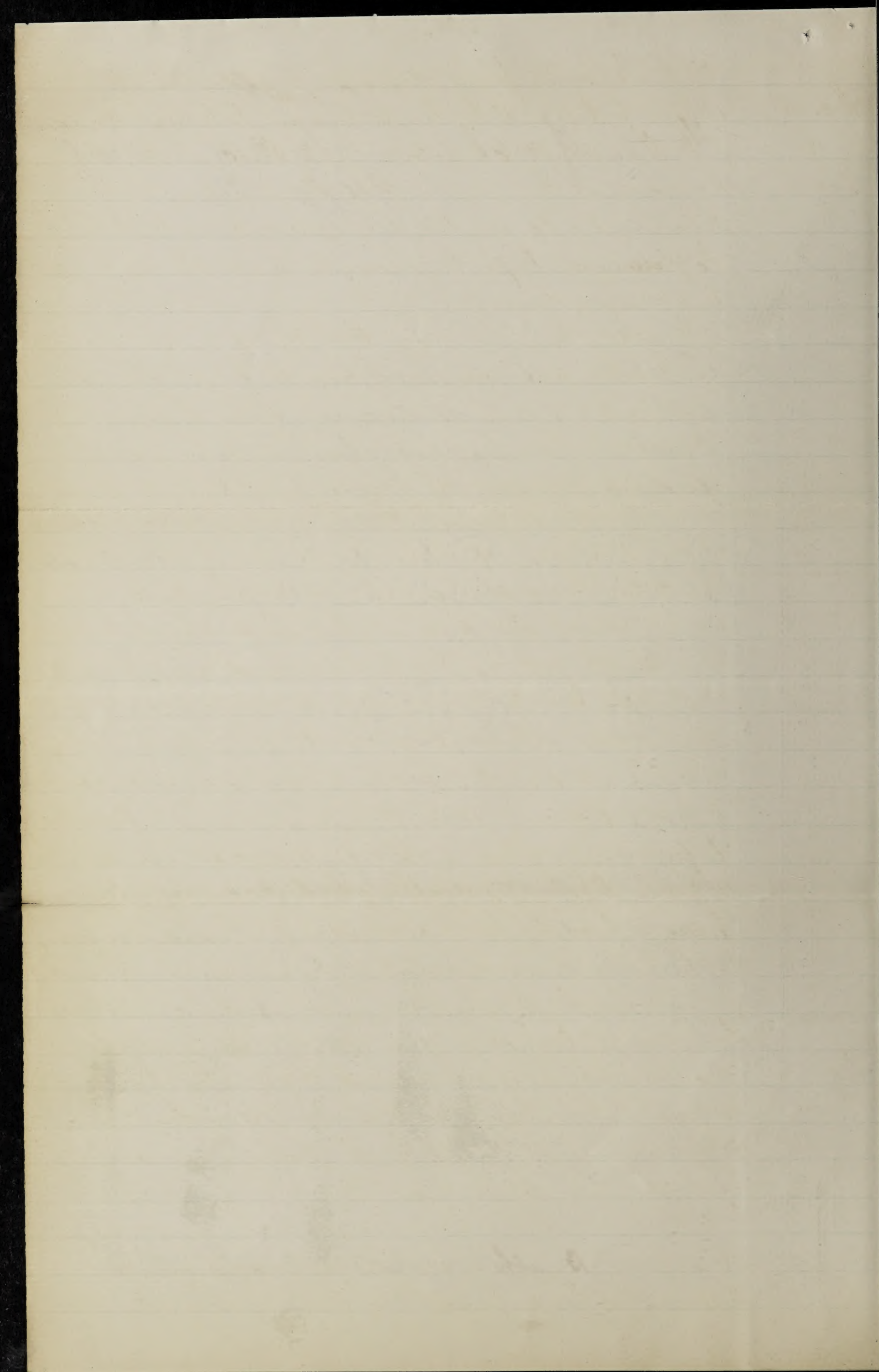
The Births registered numbered 195, of these 95 were Males, 100 females, giving a Birth rate of 28.7 per thousand of the population against 27 the previous year.

Deaths

The Deaths registered number 104. Males 58 Females 46, giving a Death rate of 14.3 per thousand against 14.6 the previous year.

Ages at Death. 29 occurred to Infants under 1 Year. 10 one year and under five - 6 five years and under fifteen - 4 fifteen and under Twenty five - 26 Twenty five and under Sixty five - 31 Sixty five and upwards, of these 11 lived to Seventy years and upwards, and 11 to Eighty years and upwards - It will thus be seen that the greatest number of Deaths occurred to Infants and aged people, which together number 58 of the 104 deaths, whereas only 4 occurred between the ages of fifteen and twenty five -

Cause of Deaths - of the 104 Deaths 29 were due to Pneumonia, Bronchitis or Pleurisy,



Cause
of
Death

14 to Infants from diseases incidental to infantile life, 11 to Senile Decay- 6 to Heart Disease, 5 to Cancer, 4 to Apoplexy 4 to Phthisis 4 to Diseases of the Liver. 2 to Peritonitis, 2 to Rheumatic Fever, 1 to whooping cough, 1 to Influenza, 4 to Accidents and the remainder to Various causes.

It will thus be seen that the greatest number of deaths from any one cause as in former years we due to diseases of the Respiratory Organs, Pneumonia claiming by far the greatest number of Victims, I ascribe this in a great measure to the nature of Employment of the Majority of Persons resident in the locality, those not employed at the Railway works which involves night and day labour, are employed in the fields and are thus exposed to all the variations of temperature and rain, these people will do well to note what in previous reports I have advised, namely to wear flannel next the Skin as from personal observation I know this is neglected in too many- Of the 24 deaths which occurred to Infants nearly half were due to Pneumonia, 10 to Atrophy and debility from Birth, this number with proper care and feeding should be reduced, but it will not be until Mothers are taught to understand that Starchy food is unfit for Infants that milk is the common Provision of nature, "Ergo" Mothers nurse your own children and don't fly to artificial foods" Deaths from Heart Disease and Cancer are about the same as last year, Two deaths occurred from Rheumatic Fever brought on by cold and exposure,

and

And four to Accidental causes, The deaths from Zymotic Diseases number 4 only, this is very satisfactory and is the lowest I have had to record.

Distribution of Deaths & Sickness will be best dealt with by dividing the District as heretofore in three parts 1st The Southern, that is that part of the district South of the River Nene, In this 34 deaths occurred against 45 the previous year, 2nd or Middle District that is North of the River Nene and South of the Great Eastern Railway, In this 54 deaths occurred against 54 the previous year. 3rd or Northern District, that part North of the Great Eastern Railway including Norwood Side, In this 10 Deaths occurred against 14 the previous year.

Diseases Notification Act Under the Diseases Notification Act 20 Cases of Scarlet Fever, 19 of Erysipelas, 4 of Enteric Fever, 4 of Diphtheria and 1 of Choleraic Diarrhoea were reported, giving a total of 48 cases against 73 the previous year.

Distribution of Infectious Diseases
Southern District 13 Cases of Scarlet Fever, 6 Cases of Erysipelas, 3 of Diphtheria and 2 of Enteric Fever -
Middle District 6 Cases of Scarlet Fever, 8 of Erysipelas, 2 of Enteric Fever, 1 of Diphtheria, and 1 of choleraic Diarrhoea -
Northern District - 2 cases of Scarlet Fever and 4 of Erysipelas.

Sickness - The General state of health for the past year was good, and the District free from any epidemic Disease - In the early part of

Sickness
Cont^d

of January Influenza made its appearance in a mild form, and cases of whooping cough and Measles were numerous and there was one death from each of these diseases. By far the greatest amount of sickness was due to diseases of the Respiratory Organs (Pneumonia or Bronchitis) and Twenty-nine deaths were recorded, but cases of Consumption in the district are few. Scarlet Fever was more or less in evidence the whole year, but fell from Thirty-two cases of the previous year to Twenty and no deaths. Erysipelas also declined from Thirty-two cases to nineteen, & Of the four cases of Enteric Fever three could be traced to drinking impure water, and here I may remark that as the Marham water cannot be obtained by all and as Most of the filters in use in the district are worthless, I would advise the "Pasteur ~~~~ Cumberland Filter as one worthy of notice.

The General distribution of disease remains about the same as the past three years, The regular removal of filth by the scavenging cart may have already been productive of good results, as only Forty Eight cases of Zymotic disease have been reported against 134 of the previous year and the low death rate of 14.3 per thousand will compare favourably with any other town in the County.

Suggestions & Recommendations - In all cases of new Erection of Houses I would strongly advise your Council to enforce the Dry Earth System and that the Scavenging Cart remove the refuse once a week.

Suggestions
&
Recommendations
Cont^d

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In parts of the Town where from any cause
the Mearham Water cannot be enforced that
a Public Tap be supplied as most of the
Well Water is polluted and unfit for domestic
use and the storage of Rain Water is
very defective.

Wm. L. Waters
Med Officer of Health

Date Feb 17. 1898

Annual Report

March Urban Sanitary
District

Wm. H. H. H.
m. o. H.
